



Wildfire Programs Advisory Council – Meeting

Friday April 12, 2024

The complete Wildfire Programs Advisory Council can be viewed at the following website and serves as the official public meeting record: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/Pages/wildfire-programs-council.aspx>

Welcome

Chair Hunnicutt

Chair Hunnicutt welcomed the council to the meeting and roll was taken of present council members. The chair reviewed meeting etiquette. The meeting summary of the January 19, 2024 council meeting was approved.

Director's Report

Doug Grafe

Director Doug Grafe discussed the expiration of some council members' terms in September. He asked the council members to consider whether they wished to serve for an additional term. He will work with Presiding Officers to support recruitment efforts. Director Grafe discussed the 2024 Legislative session and the wildfire related bills that were considered. He discussed with the council an overview of the state's wildfire response and planning since 2019 and emphasized the importance of creating durable wildfire programs that mitigate the increasing complex fire conditions in Oregon. Finally, Director Grafe and the council discussed the National Wildland Fire mitigation and Management Commission's report and how best the council can interface with the national commission.

Annual Report Coordination

Chair, Vice Chair

Chair Hunnicutt reviewed the mandate for the annual report from the council to the legislature. The chair reviewed the subjects of the three working groups that the council members would split into to develop the different sections of the council report. The three workgroups are community risk reduction, landscape resiliency, and adequate response and funding. The council discussed the subject matter of each of the workgroups and then took a roll call of the council to ask the members to volunteer for their preferred workgroup.

Oregon Wildfire Hazard Map, Update

ODF, Derrick Wheeler

Derrick Wheeler and Derrick Gasperini from the Forestry Department and Andy McEvoy from Oregon State University were introduced to provide and update on the development of the Wildfire Hazard

Map. They provided an overview on the progress of developing the map. They talked about the current rulemaking advisory committee (RAC) exploring the impact of irrigated land on the maps hazard designations. They talked about the plan to begin public engagement in the more highly impacted areas of the state after the RAC concludes and that these public engagement meetings will include both Forestry and OSU staff as well as staff from Agencies that implement community risk reduction programs along with the two Agencies that apply code based on the mapping designations (OSFM and BCD). They further outlined the intended timeline after public engagement including the plan for developing and sending property notification letters, the availability of the appeals process once property owners are notified, and, ultimately, the publishing of the final map.

Public Comment

All

Bob Hart provided public testimony to the council and expressed his concern that the mandates associated with being in the high hazard zone of the WUI should have incentives associated with them to help folks comply.

Wrap Up

Chair Hunnicutt

The chair thanked the council and stated that the next meeting would be on July 12, 2024.
